

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-10 NEA-10 NSAE-00 OPIC-03

SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 8903

INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OECD PARIS 27501

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, OECD

SUBJECT: INFORMAL STEEL DISCUSSIONS DURING XCSS

1. ON OCTOBER 21 AMBASSADOR TURNER AND AMBASSADOR YEUTTER ATTENDED AN INFORMAL MEETING ORGANIZED BY HIJZEN TO DISCUSS STEEL. ALSO ATTENDING WERE REPRESENTATIVES OF JAPAN AND SWEDEN, ALONG WITH SECRETARY-GENERAL VAN LENNEP.

2. HIJZEN STATED THAT THE EC WAS UNDER INTENSE PRESSURE TO DO SOMETHING ON THIS ISSUE, THOUGH NO DECISIONS HAD YET BEEN MADE. HE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO AVOID TRADE RESTRICTIVE MEASURES, AND EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE FOR THE U.S. DECISION ON COUNTERVAILING DUTIES. HE THEN ASKED WHETHER THE OTHER COUNTRIES WERE EXPERIENCING SIMILAR PRESSURES AND, IF SO, WHETHER THEY EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO KEEP THOSE PRESSURES UNDER CONTROL.

3. YEUTTER RESPONDED BY DECLARING THAT THE U.S. STEEL

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INDUSTRY HAS A NUMBER OF CONCERNS IN THE INTERNATIONAL

TRADE AREA, AND THAT NUMEROUS GOVERNMENT-INDUSTRY DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN HELD IN RECENT WEEKS. HE INDICATED THAT ONE OF THE PRIMARY CONCERNS IS THE INITIATION OF SECTORAL NEGOTIATIONS AT THE MTN AND THAT THE U.S. EXPECTS TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON THAT ISSUE AT THE UPCOMING MEETING OF THE SECTORS GROUP. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE U.S. INDUSTRY WAS VERY MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN STEEL -- THROUGH DIRECT OWNERSHIP, GRANT, AND LOW INTEREST LOAN PROGRAMS -- IN BOTH DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

4. THE JAPANESE REPRESENTATIVE GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS NOT INFORMED ON THE ISSUE. PERHAPS HE WAS SIMPLY FEARFUL OF COMMENTING WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS. AT ANY RATE, HE SAID ONLY THAT JAPAN HAD NO AUTHORITY TO RESTRICT EXPORTS AND PREFERRED TO DEAL WITH THESE ISSUES ON INTER-COMPANY BASIS ALTHOUGH HE CONTENDED JAPAN HAD NO CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS ON STEEL. THE SWEDISH REPRESENTATIVE INDICATED THAT THEIR INDUSTRY WAS IN GOOD ECONOMIC HEALTH.

5. HIJZEN OBVIOUSLY HAD CONTEMPLATED A FOLLOW-UP MEETING OF THE MAJOR STEEL PRODUCING AND CONSUMING COUNTRIES, PROBABLY TO BE HELD UNDER OECD AUSPICES. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, HOWEVER, IT WAS DECIDED THAT FURTHER HOME COUNTRY CONSULTATIONS WERE NECESSARY, AND THAT THE BETTER COURSE WOULD BE TO POSTPONE A DECISION ON SUCH A MEETING TO A LATER DATE. SINCE THE EC HAS SOME TIME PRESSURES, WE CAN EXPECT A FOLLOW-UP CONTACT FROM HIJZEN RELATIVELY SOON -- PROBABLY WITHIN A COUPLE OF WEEKS.
TURNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STEELS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OECDP27501
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750367-0964
From: OECD PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751029/aaaaazhz.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <29 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INFORMAL STEEL DISCUSSIONS DURING XCSS
TAGS: EGEN, US, JA, SW, OECD, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006